

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01

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O 031130Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 147

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1493

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5947

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: APRIL 3, THE 93RD DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 5908

1. SUMMARY. MORE ROCKETS FELL ON POCHENTONG, NOT IMPEDING THE AIRLIFT BUT DESTROYING TWO T-28 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. KAF TACTICAL ASSETS HAVE BEEN REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY DUE TO DESTRUCTION, DAMAGE AND MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS. FANK UNITS ON THE NORTHERN DIKE ABOVE PHNOM PENH FELL BACK FROM THEIR POSITIONS LATE APRIL 2. THE SITUATION IS STILL CONFUSED BUT THE UNITS APPEAR TO HAVE REGAINED MOST OF THE LOST GROUND. THERE WAS MORE FIGHTING SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH AND AROUND KOMPONG SPEU. TWO NAVY INFANTRY POSITIONS TWENTY KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH ON THE MEKONG WERE SUCCESSFULLY EVACUATED. END SUMMARY.

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2. TWENTY-TWO 107MM ROCKETS LANDED ON OR NEAR

POCHENTONG. THE AIRLIFT PROCEEDED NORMALLY, BUT TWO T-28 FIGHTER PLANES WERE DESTROYED BY FIRE. AS A RESULT OF LOSSES, DAMAGE AND MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS DURING THE COURSE OF THE OFFENSIVE, THE KHMER AR FORCE HAS SEEN ITS TACTICAL ASSETS REDUCED DRASTICALLY AND ITS LOW SORTIED LEVELS REFLECT THIS. TWO ROCKETS LANDED OUTSIDE A RESIDENTIAL AREA IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE CITY AND THREE LANDED IN THE CITY, REPORTEDLY WOUNDING THREE PERSONS.

3. LATE APRIL 2, FANK ELEMENTS ON THE NORTHERN DIKE ABOVE PHNOM PENH RETREATED UNDER ENEMY PRESSURE. THEY WERE TURNED AROUND SHORTLY THEREAFTER AND ALTHOUGH THE SITUATION IS STILL CONFUSED AND PROBABLY TENUOUS, WE BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE FOR THE MOST PART REESTABLISHED THEIR DEFENSE POSITIONS.

4. THERE WAS MORE FIGHTING TO THE SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH BUT FANK UNITS HELD THEIR GROUND. FOUR ARMED PERSONNEL CARRIERS WERE REPORTED DAMAGED, THREE RECOVERABLE. ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO THE EAST OF THE ROUTE 4 PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG SPEU BUT THE RESULTS OF THIS FIGHTING WERE INCONCLUSIVE.

5. TWO KHMER NAVY INFANTRY POSITIONS ALONG THE MEKONG ABOUT TWENTY KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH WERE SUCCESSFULLY EVACUATED APRIL 2. APPROXIMATELY 800 PERSONS WERE MOVED OUT AS WELL AS SEVERAL 105MM ARTILLERY PIECES.
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